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Additional Facts on John Bailey

● ● from Gary A. Trudgen; Endwell, NY

John Bailey's New-York Packet Affidavit

(TN-133)

City of New-York, ss.

PERSONALLY appeared before me, Jeremiah Wool, one of the Aldermen of the said city, John Bailey, of the said city of New-York, cutler, who being duly sworn depoleth and saith, That since the fifteenth day of April, 1788, he hath not either by himself or others, made or struck any Coppers, bearing the impression of those circulated by the State of New-Jersey, commonly called Jersey coppers: And that what he so made previous to the said fifteenth of April, was in conformity to, and by authority derived from an act of the State of New-Jersey, entitled, 'An act for the establishment of a coinage of copper in that State,' passed June the first, 1786.

JOHN BAILEY.

Sworn this first-day of August, 1789,
Before me, JEREMIAH WOOL, Alderman.

This notice, placed by the City of New York, appeared in the *New-York Packet* of August, 1789. As you can see, the notice is John Bailey's sworn statement concerning his involvement with the New Jersey copper coinages. This notice was probably Sylvester S. Crosby's source for this important affidavit which appears on page 283 in his *Early Coins of America* prefaced with the observation "We are indebted to Mr. Bushnell for a copy of an affidavit of John Bailey, who, it seems, also made New Jersey coppers".

John Bailey's Shop "across from the Merchants Coffee House".

(TN-134)

Another piece of information concerning John Bailey has come to light but unfortunately too late to be included in my article on Bailey which appeared in CNL No. 85. Thus I have elected to include the information in this Technical Note.

John Bailey's daughter, Charlotte, related to Issac J. Greenwood that her father had erected his shop across from the Merchants Coffee House at his own expense. (1) After the Revolutionary War, Bailey did not return to this location. Since that section of the city had not been destroyed by fire during the British occupation, I was left guessing why he did not resume occupancy of his building. Recently I found that Bailey had filed a petition with the Assembly of the State of New York that explains the preceding puzzle (2).

It turns out that John Bailey had never owned the subject building, but had leased the building from Archibald Kennedy, Esquire. The petition states that before the war Bailey had expended a large sum of money in repairing the building, perhaps explaining Charlotte's misunderstanding that her father had erected the building. The lease expired during the war, while Bailey was exiled in Fishkill, NY. Bailey petitioned the Assembly to "bring in a bill to enable him to enter and occupy the said house, for a term of years equal to the time he was prevented from occupying the said house." The Assembly determined "that the prayer of the petitioner (John Bailey) ought not be granted." Therefore, Bailey remained at his new location in Little Dock Street.

(1) *Memoir of John Bailey and the War Sword of Washington.* 1864.

(2) *1786 Journal of the Assembly of the State of New York.* The petition was filed on February 3 and the Assembly rendered its decision on February 28.

**A New and Interesting Example of New Jersey Maris 71-y
Struck Over a Machin's Mills Counterfelt British Halfpence.**

(TN-135)

● ● from Mark Auerbach; Oak Ridge, NJ

I am enclosing information on a very interesting example of Maris 71-y. The photographs are courtesy of Tom Mulvaney of Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, Inc. and much of the census data is courtesy of Michael Hodder of Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.

Attribution Number:	Maris 71-y
Rarity Rating:	R-7
Weight:	96.9 grains
Diameter:	28.9 x 28.6 mm.
Die-axis:	160 degrees
Grade:	VF-20+



2X Enlargement

The obverse is sunk on AESAR and in the right field; and there is a break from the muzzle to the rim. This die state is later than Spiro:1611. The reverse die state is impossible to determine due to the overstriking. The piece was struck three times and appears to have been overstruck on a Machin's Mills Georgius III/Britannia halfpence. The Vlack number of the undertype is not ascertainable. This specimen is finer than Taylor, Garrett, both ANS specimens, the New Jersey Historical Society example, or the one in an Arizona and New Jersey collections (2-3 pieces). The color of this coin is medium brown with lighter areas on the devices. It is a very attractive coin overall, and now rests in a prominent New Jersey State coinage collection.

I trust that CNL Patrons will enjoy reading about this coin as much as I enjoyed attributing and researching it.

**A New Atlee-Machin's Mills Counterfeit
British Halfpence Reverse & Variety.**

(TN-136)

● ● from Frank Steimle; Ocean NJ

I have the honor and pleasure to bring to CNL Patrons the discovery of a new Atlee-Machin's Mills counterfeit British halfpence reverse. This reverse was found in combination with a well known obverse, Vlack 4, which is characterized by the horn-like top leaves of the head wreath and is commonly found with reverse 75A and, rarely, with reverse 71C.

This new reverse appears to be dated 1771, although porosity in the area of the last date digit leaves a small question if the date might be 1777. The other features of the die, in total, do not correspond to any other illustrated on Vlack's plate or subsequently discovered and published. This new reverse has been examined by verified by Mike Ringo who generously took the photographs of the piece. Until another specimen is found to clear up the remaining 71 or 77 doubt, Mike and I suggest that the reverse be tentatively catalogued and listed as 71D, and the variety as Vlack 4-71D.



2X Enlargement

Because the discovery coin is dark and porous, some details may not be apparent on the photograph. The key attributes of this new reverse are:

1. The left hand of the seated figure points to the "I" of "BRITAN-", similar to 76A or 78B, and quite different from any other possible reverse, i.e., the other 1771s, the 1774, or the rare 1777.
2. The bottom of the spear shaft points to the top of the first 1 in the date, like 71B or 74A.
3. There is a double line under the figure, like 75A.
4. The date is large and the digits well spaced, like 75A and others.

The specimen was found at a small local show last year and weighs 96.9 grains. It is in very good, or so, condition but is dark and finely porous overall. There is not any clear evidence of die deterioration or failure to explain the apparent rarity of this issue. Vlack 4-75A is a relatively common variety of which I have acquired several over the years from dealers "junk" boxes without much effort, but the other 71 reverse (71C) for obverse Vlack 4 is also very rare, near R8.

Halloween at Machin's Mills

(CS-1)

● ● from Michael Hodder; Wolfeboro, NH

"They also sometimes worked in masks to create a terror in the neighborhood . . . Atlee, the engraver, wore a horrid mask, and frightened some boys who came to fish so that they never ventured near the mill again."

E.M.Ruttenber. *History of the County of Orange*. 1875

This statement was made to Dr. F.B.Hough by Thomas Machin, Jr., and reproduced by Ruttenber, a local historian. It is unique in the records of any mint coining coppers during the Confederation period and has never been adequately explained although variously interpreted. The usually offered story is best found in Walter Breen's magisterial *Encyclopedia* (1900):

Machin's son Thomas provided the interesting details that neighbors suspected the Mint House [Machin's Mills] operations to be illegal because much of the work went on at night, with workmen wearing hideous masks to frighten off any children not already repelled by the noise of rolling mills, blank cutters, and coining press.

In this reading of Thomas Machin, Jr.'s account, the Machin's Mills operatives, James F. Atlee included, wore their masks to keep inquisitive neighbors at bay, desiring no questions about the "illegal" coining going on at the Mills.

This explanation might be convincing if the neighbors in question were all suggestive children. Adults, on the other hand, might not be so easily persuaded to retire at the sight of a "hideous mask". Further, I can conceive of nothing more guaranteed to raise parental curiosity, not to mention anger, than learning that one's children had been frightened away from a favorite spot by some masked bullies. Rather than keeping curiosity at bay, such provocative behavior by the coiners, I believe, would have encouraged exactly the opposite reaction among the neighbors.

Could there be some other explanation for this intriguing part of Thomas Machin, Jr.'s memorial of his father's minting business? I believe there may be, and while the following cannot be proved to have been correct, I believe it is more plausible than the commonly offered one.

In his *De Re Metallica* (1556), Agricola mentions that workers in the iron bloomeries, where open fires and high heat were a hazard, commonly wore facial masks made of linen, with eye-slits for vision. In Agricola's day, the masks were worn to ward off the fumes rising from the fires, not as protection from heat or sparks. Somewhat closer to Machin's time, the Saugus Iron Works (17th century) in Saugus, Massachusetts, does not record any sort of facial protection worn by the workers there. Diderot's *Encyclopedia* (roughly contemporaneous with Machin) also fails to show the bloomery workers wearing any facial covering, but then, the engravers of Diderot's plates were concerned with renderings of the machinery, not the workers. They often showed workers handling hot iron in bare feet and without gloves. Plate XVI, Casting Cannon, does show one worker shielding his face from the open furnace with his hat, while the puddler, closer to the molten metal, holds his try bar in his bare hands! At least Saugus's workers had gauntlets and boots! The bloomery workers at Hopewell Furnace in Pennsylvania, again contemporaneous with Machin's operation, did wear facial protection, described by one of the staff historians as kerchiefs wrapped around the lower portion of the face.

Gary Trudgen did not find surface evidence of reducing furnaces at the site of Machin's Mills in Newburgh when he walked the area. We know from Thomas Machin, Jr.'s account that his father is said to have obtained the copper for his coinage from melted brass cannon, the zinc extracted from the alloy by reduction. Gary believed that the reducing works may have been

elsewhere, and that this phase of Machin's operation may have been sub-contracted to a local furnace. It should be said, however, that the Machin's Mills site has not been excavated.

Even if Machin's Mills did not have an on-site reducing furnace, it must have maintained an active high temperature hearth for the copper ingots we know the Mills rolled into sheets. Further, there must have been an annealing hearth or furnace for the blanks, after they had been cut from the sheet copper, as well as some facilities for annealing die steel, assuming dies were cut on site. Even if the hearths were of the reverberatory type, enclosed to reflect heat that would otherwise have been lost to the air, the inspection and extraction port would have exposed a worker to localized high heat. It should be remembered that the temperature of a fire was judged by the color of its flame at this time, so the hearth master would be required to look into the flame at frequent intervals. I mean to suggest that the masks referred to worn by Atlee and others may simply have been facial protection from the high heat and sparks of the hearths. If they resembled the masks described by Agricola, they would have been full head coverings with eye slits. If they were the kerchief type used by the Hopewell bloomery men, then they would have covered the lower half of the face. The appearance of the Machin's Mills workers wearing such face coverings would have been enough to frighten children. Making coins was a sweaty, dangerous job for those swinging the press arm or feeding the dies. Those involved with annealing ingots or rolling the hot copper into sheet would have been sooty and grimy, their work clothes singed by the heat of the hearths and holed by flying sparks. Truly devilish in appearance, working in an environment at times full of smoke, smells, and fire, surrounded by the deafening noise of the mill wheel, rollers, polishing drum, and colning press, the Machin's Mills workers probably did resemble characters escaped from a lower level of Hades.

If the masks were facial protection, and Atlee was seen wearing one, then we must assume that Atlee needed a mask because he worked near and often enough to the open hearths, at least on occasion. It is difficult to imagine why a die sinker would need facial protection in his craft. Perhaps Atlee's role at Machin's Mills involved more than just die sinking?

Conjecture and Speculation

Some thoughts from ye Editor

Halloween at Machin's Mills is the introductory item in a new category of topics to be discussed in CNL. From time to time a number of ideas have presented themselves to ye Editor that did not seem to properly fit into the category of a Technical Note or as a question for the Research Forum. Ideas based on perfectly good logic and circumstantial evidence but which appear to conflict with or contradict established "numismatic tradition".

To accommodate this type of idea or article, we have established the Conjecture and Speculation (CS) category. Here are ideas for which hard proof cannot be presented but which common sense suggests appropriate conclusions. Conjecture is defined as "inference based on inclusive or incomplete evidence; guesswork", and Speculation as "contemplation of a profound nature" — or — "a conclusion, opinion, or theory reached by speculating." — which is "to meditate on a given subject; to reflect."



NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S COURT and the STATE COINAGES

by
Gary A. Trudgen

(TN-137)

Litigation involving the individuals who were responsible for the state coinages often adds to our understanding of their coinage operations. Up to now, the New York City Mayor's Court records have been an untapped resource. The minutes of this court are still extant, and they contain many entries involving individuals from the New Jersey and New York coinage operations.

The Mayor's Court was a court of common pleas that had jurisdiction over violations of city ordinances and petty criminal or civil matters within New York County. It was presided over by the mayor, the recorder, and the aldermen, and it was the oldest court in the city. During the state coinage era, a session was held approximately once per month, starting on a Tuesday and running for two or three days.

The New York City Mayor's Court was inactive during the American Revolution because the city was under British military rule. However, the court resumed sessions in February of 1784, after the British evacuated the city. The Mayor's Court, which soon became the most esteemed court in the city, was held in City Hall, at the head of Broad Street. Mayor James Duane and Recorder Richard Varick headed the court from February 1784 until September 1789. When Richard Varick became the new mayor, he assumed control of the court in October 1789, and Samuel Jones became recorder.

Unfortunately, specific details of each case are not recorded within the Mayor's Court minutes. In most instances, the minutes do not indicate the reason why litigation was started. Instead, the minutes list the names of the plaintiff(s) and defendant(s), their attorneys, and the court rulings concerning each case. Therefore, coinage people associations and the individuals who dealt with them can be gleaned from the minutes. (Association is used in this context to indicate that two or more people had a common interest. If it is known that these people were contractually involved in a business, then partnership is used.) Also, other sundry items respecting the individuals responsible for the state coinages can be ascertained from the minutes. The state coinage era occurred during the years 1785 through 1789. An examination of the Mayor's Court minutes during this period, and including a year before and after this period, reveals the following. There are a total of 193 entries, from 1784 through 1790, which involve individuals from the New Jersey and New York state coinage operations. Often there was more than one entry per case resulting in a total of 83 separate cases during this period. Breaking the number of cases down by year yields the following information:

January 1, 1784 - December 31, 1784:	4
January 1, 1785 - December 31, 1785:	15
January 1, 1786 - December 31, 1786:	15
January 1, 1787 - December 31, 1787:	23
January 1, 1788 - December 31, 1788:	15
January 1, 1789 - December 31, 1789:	5
January 1, 1790 - December 31, 1790:	6
TOTAL	83

The preceding data shows an increase in litigation during the coinage era. Interestingly, the number of cases peak in 1787, during the height of the coinage period. This information certainly indicates that many of the cases were coinage related.

A chronological review of the minutes provides the following information relative to the individuals responsible for the New Jersey and New York State coinages:

(1). The May 25, 1784 session records a partnership between Samuel Atlee and William Alexander. Alexander is listed in the New York City directory as living at Great George Street. During this time, Samuel Atlee was operating a porter brewery in the West Ward of the city along the Hudson River, under the firm name of Atlee & Co. Later he became financially involved in the Rahway, New Jersey coinage operation. Still later he was a copartner in Thomas Machin's coinage operation (Machin's Mills), located near Newburgh, New York.

The August 23, 1785 session shows the Atlee-Alexander associates involved in a larger partnership. This firm also included James Atlee, John Perkin, Alexander Reed, and William Thompson. George Olive, an importer and furniture manufacturer located in New York City at No. 14 Fletcher Street, acted as their assignee. James Atlee is credited with engraving coinage dies for a New York City private mint and the Rahway, New Jersey mint during 1786 and into 1787. Later, in April 1787, he joined in copartnership with the Machin's Mills coinage operation. The addresses and occupations of John Perkin and Alexander Reed are not listed in the city directory. William Thompson was a parchment, vellum, and glove manufacturer located at No. 28 Dye Street in New York City.

James Giles, the future Machin's Mills copartner, served as attorney for the preceding two partnerships. Giles had obtained an attorney's license from New York State on February 5, 1784. His first residence in New York City was at No. 65 William Street. In May of 1785 he moved to No. 65 Maiden Lane and a year later he moved again, this time to No. 58 Maiden Lane.

(2). The first of twelve law suits involving the partnership of John Grier, James Grier, and David Brooks appears in the June 15, 1784 session. These three men were merchants under the firm name of Brooks, Grier, & Co., located in New York City at No. 71 William Street. In April 1787, James Grier and David Brooks became associates in the Machin's Mills coinage operation. James Giles, also an associate of Machin's Mills, was one of their attorneys. He represented them in the December 8, 1785 session. The Brooks-Grier partnership existed at least from June 1784 through August 1790. They were always the plaintiffs and the court judgements were always in their favor.

(3). The September 7, 1784 session records a partnership between Thomas Goadsby, Joseph and Thomas Holmes, and Maria and Samuel Kirkman. In 1786, Thomas Goadsby was one of three men who were contracted to coin coppers for the State of New Jersey. Joseph and Thomas Holmes, as well as Maria and Samuel Kirkman, are not listed in the New York City directories. Therefore, they may have been residents of New Jersey. The Goadsby-Holmes-Kirkman partnership was in existence from at least September 1784 through August 1790, which covers the entire New Jersey copper coinage period. During this time they were the plaintiffs in three cases. In their first case they sued James Brebner and Andrew Brown, store owners at No. 8 William Street, New York City. In their last case they sued Frederick Jay, brother of Chief Justice John Jay. Frederick was an auctioneer who dealt mainly in real estate and he was located in the city at No. 11 Queen Street.

(4). During the February 22, 1785 session, Samuel Atlee appeared in court and swore an oath of allegiance to New York State. Samuel had petitioned the New York Legislature to be naturalized and made a citizen of the state. His name appears in a bill passed by the Legislature on May 4, 1784 titled "An Act to naturalize certain persons therein named." This indicates that he was foreign born.

James F. Atlee also petitioned the New York Legislature for citizenship, indicating that he was also foreign born. His name appears in a similar act passed on April 18,

1787. However, the Mayor's Court minutes do not record his appearance in court to take the oath of allegiance. Perhaps he appeared in another court. The act does not specify a specific court in which the person was to appear.

(5). In addition to pleading many cases in the Mayor's Court on behalf of his fellow coiners, James Giles was also involved in several lawsuits himself, a total of seventeen. A sampling of these cases follows. Recorded in the February 24, 1784 session is a case where Giles sued a Thomas Mills. This case went to trial on March 23, 1784 where Mills was charged with assault and battery. The jury ruled in favor of Giles and awarded him 250 pounds in damages. It seems that Giles was handsomely rewarded for the beating he took from Mills. Later that year, Giles placed a notice in the newspapers that Thomas Mills was an insolvent debtor. He went on to say that he was Mills' assignee and that he was collecting the debts owed to Mills. Another interesting suit is recorded in the October 24, 1786 session. Here Giles sued Samuel and James F. Atlee, his future copartners. Earlier Giles had served as their attorney. Perhaps they failed to pay his fee. Nevertheless, this case never went to trial, indicating that the disagreement was settled out of court. Later, in the September 18, 1787 session, Giles sued Hercules Mulligan, a tailor located in the city at Chapel Street. James Giles was known for his precise dress, so Giles may have been disappointed with Mulligan's work.

In addition to the several lawsuits that James Giles was involved in, another piece of information concerning Giles can be gleaned from the minutes. It is known that he moved from New York City to Bridgeton, New Jersey sometime during the year 1788. However, until now, it was unknown when during the year he moved. The Mayor's Court minutes record that Giles was involved in six lawsuits during 1788. The sheriff doesn't list him as "not found" until the September 13, 1788 session. Apparently he was in the process of moving at this time. However, he didn't move suddenly because in the August 4, 1789 session the New York City sheriff returned that he had seized Giles' goods and chattels to the amount of £27.3.3. Later, in the October 20, 1789 session, a record filed in one of the causes against James Giles was amended to read New "Jersey" instead of New "York." This change was made to indicate Giles' new state of residence.

(6). Thomas Machin, the man who constructed the mills near Newburgh, New York that were later converted into a mint, was involved in three lawsuits. The first appears in the April 19, 1785 session. This suit/counter suit was with Ebenezer Mather. Mather is not listed in the New York City directories, but he must have been from New York County. James Giles was Machin's attorney, and this dispute ran for 3 years without being settled in court. This cause was given to referees on three separate occasions in an attempt to resolve the dispute. The first group of referees were appointed during the March 21, 1786 session. The second group of referees, chosen during the March 6, 1787 session, included Machin's soon-to-be partner, David Brooks. The Machin's Mills coinage operation was formed on April 18, 1787. This conflict of interest may have prompted the appointment of the third group of referees, which occurred later that year during the November 27, 1787 session. The two other law suits, in which Machin was the defendant, were with Isaac Clason (4/3/1787 session) and William Buckle (11/27/1787 session). Both of these men were merchants. These cases must have been settled out of court because the minutes contain only the initial entry for each of them.

(7). John Bailey, the New York City cutler, coiner, and brass founder, was involved in seven lawsuits during this period. The first case, in which Bailey was sued by Moses Rogers and John Murray, Jr., appears in the June 7, 1785 session. None of the lawsuits occurred during Bailey's alleged coinage period of 1787 through April 15, 1788. Therefore, these cases were probably concerned with Bailey's cutlery business. John Bailey also served as a juror in the Mayor's Court during this period.

(8). Samuel Atlee, the brewer and Machin's Mills copartner, appears by himself in eleven cases. Interestingly, seven of these lawsuits were initiated in 1787, during the height of the coinage period. The first cause appears in the December 8, 1785 session where Atlee is sued by Abraham Brevoort. Brevoort was an ironmonger located at No. 26 Queen Street in New York City. In the August 1, 1786 session, Atlee sued William Gilliland, a store owner located on Broad Street in the city. In the very next session James F. Atlee joined with Samuel Atlee in suing Gilliland. James Giles, their future Machin's Mills copartner, was their attorney in this case. Lastly, Samuel and James F. Atlee's old partner, William Alexander, was involved in litigation with them during the June 24, 1788 session. First, Alexander sued James F. Atlee and then Samuel Atlee sued Alexander. Again, James Giles represented the Atlees.

(9). Albion Cox, one of the three New Jersey coinage contractors, appears independently five times over the years 1785 through 1787. The first lawsuit is recorded during the December 8, 1785 session where Cox sued his old partner, Simeon A. Bayley. Bayley, Cox, Daniel Van Voorhis, and William Coley had operated a jewelry and silversmith business at No. 27 Hanover Square in New York City. Albion Cox had left this copartnership in April of 1785 and Simeon Bayley had left later that year in July. Shortly thereafter Van Voorhis and Coley joined with Reuben Harmon, Jr., who had obtained a coinage grant from the Republic of Vermont. The last lawsuit appears in the March 6, 1787 session, where Bob Birch sued Albion Cox. Birch was a limner and engraver located in New York City at No. 178 Queen Street. The fact that Birch was an engraver and that the New Jersey copper coinage was in production at this time, brings up an interesting question. Was the lawsuit prompted over a disagreement concerning coinage dies that Cox had contracted Bob Birch to engrave?

(10). Walter Mould, the New Jersey coinage contractor who minted his share of coppers independently, appears in a case in the February 28, 1786 session. Mould sued Andrew Lott, who is listed as residing at No. 15 Beekman Street in New York City. At this time, Walter Mould was living at No. 23 William Street in the city. There is only the initial entry in this cause, which indicates that their dispute was settled out of court. Also, it is likely that this case was not coinage related because it occurred before the State of New Jersey issued its coinage grant.

(11). Ephraim Brasher, the gold and silversmith of Brasher Doubloon fame, appeared in court during the March 21, 1786 session. He produced a commission from Governor George Clinton appointing him coroner of the City and County of New York. In early America, the coroner was a busy officer. In addition to his normal duties of investigating suspicious deaths, he also had the investigating and arresting powers of the modern district attorney. The state law required him to "...go to the place where any be slain, or suddenly dead, or wounded, or where houses are broken open, or where treasure is said to be found..." He was charged with the investigation of all the pertinent details.

Ephraim Brasher appears one other time in the minutes. During the March 6, 1787 session he sued John Stiles and Morris Earle in an apparent landlord/tenant dispute. The dispute with Morris Earle also appears in the minutes of the Chancery Court.

(12). The October 24, 1786 session records a very interesting association between Samuel Atlee, James F. Atlee, and Albion Cox. This association lasted until at least September 1787, which covers the initial coinage period of the mint located at Rahway, New Jersey. Albion Cox and Thomas Goadsby, under the supervision of Matthias Ogden, operated the Rahway Mint. Therefore, this association shows a strong connection between Machin's Mills copartners, Samuel and James F. Atlee, and the Rahway Mint. Also, this information supports the conclusion that James F. Atlee had engraved coinage dies for the Rahway Mint.

during its initial period of operation, from November 1786 through June 1787. The preceding conclusion has been deduced from punch linkage studies.

In their first lawsuit, Samuel Atlee, James F. Atlee, and Albion Cox sued Christopher Duyckinck. James Giles was their attorney. Duyckinck was a sailmaker located in New York City at No. 27 Front Street. In their second and last case, they were sued by John Murray, Jr. Murray was a merchant located at No. 38 Queen Street in New York City. Murray had also been involved in litigation with John Bailey in 1785.

(13). David Brooks, a Machin's Mills copartner, and his father-in-law Samuel Hay appear in the June 26, 1787 session. Hay operated a dry goods store at the sign of the "Thirteen Stars," located at No. 36 William Street in New York City. They were sued by one of the court attorneys, Joseph Winter. This action was probably not coinage related.

(14). Thomas Goadsby appears by himself in five cases in a one year period during 1787 and 1788. Goadsby was Albion Cox's partner in the Rahway coinage operation. Goadsby was the plaintiff in all of the lawsuits. Little is known concerning the people that Goadsby sued, except for James Tinker. Tinker is listed as a captain residing at No. 15 Little George Street in New York City.

(15). The Machin's Mills copartners, with the exception of Thomas Machin, first appear in a lawsuit during the December 18, 1787 session. Here they were sued by George Cilind. Cilind was a blacksmith located in New York City at No. 15 Maiden Lane. Next, all of the Machin's Mills copartners were sued by Albert Rickman during the November 25, 1788 session. They fought back with a counter suit during the January 13, 1789 session. During this same session they were sued again, this time by Robert Rickman. This cause was referred to three referees who seem to have never made a report. Judgement was ordered for want of a plea in the Albert Rickman case. The other two cases were apparently settled out of court because there are no subsequent entries after the initial one. Albert Rickman operated a glass and china store located at No. 178 Queen Street in New York City. Robert Rickman was probably related to Albert. One wonders what sort of business the Machin's Mills copartners were conducting with the owner of a glass and china store.

In another related item, the Machin's Mills indenture, dated April 18, 1787, was witnessed by two men, one of whom was Absalom Blackly. Blackly was admitted to practice as an attorney in the Mayor's Court during the May 1, 1787 session. Later in 1788, James Giles, the Machin's Mills attorney, sued Absalom Blackly in two separate cases.

A summary of Mayor's Court litigation involving individual coiners and coiner associations is presented in Appendix A. This appendix covers the period from February 1784 through October 1791. The coiner or coiner association is shown first, followed by the people with whom they were engaged in litigation. The first and last entry dates (month/year) are shown to the left of each case. Only one date indicates that there was just a single entry and no further court action was taken. If known, the vocation and New York City address is given to the right of the name of the individual who was involved in the litigation.

The New York City Mayor's Court minutes are an important primary source of information concerning the state coinages. The minutes show a strong cooperation between some of the individuals who were responsible for the New Jersey and New York coinages. Likewise, they show an interaction between some of the Machin's Mills copartners before that coinage firm was established. The minutes also show who some of the people were that the coiners dealt with during the state coinage era. The vocations of these people could be important clues in unraveling a better understanding of the state coinage operations. Finally, the minutes have shed a little more light on the enigmatic James F. Atlee. It is now known that James F. Atlee, who is credited with engraving many of the coinage dies used to produce state coppers, was foreign born.

The New York City Mayor's Court minutes are held in the Archives of the New York County Clerk's Office, Room 703, located at 31 Chambers Street in the city. The minutes are also available on microfilms through the Family History Center of the Mormon Church. Two microfilms, numbers 1021728 and 1021729, cover the state coinage era. The author has transcribed each entry that involved the people responsible for the state coinages and has attempted to accurately transcribe the minutes; however, poor preservation, no indexing, unfamiliar legal terms, and inferior penmanship almost assures a few errors. This amounts to 30 typewritten pages. A sample page from the minutes is presented in Appendix B. If a CNL patron wishes to obtain a copy of the complete transcribed minutes for research, in either hard copy or diskette (IBM ASCII files), please contact the author via the CNL Post Office Box 4411 address. Included with the minutes is an addendum prepared by Michael Hodder of Wolfeboro, NH, which contains definitions of the legal terms found within the minutes.



View Up Broad Street In New York City Showing City Hall (1797)

Courtesy of Prints Division, New York Public Library

Appendix A

SUMMARY of LITIGATION for each INDIVIDUAL COINER or COINER ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S COURT MINUTES (February 1784 - October 1791)

James Gilles

FEB84-MAY84 Thomas Mills
DEC85 William Alexander, Great George St.
JAN86 Christopher Crafts
Joseph Adam Fleming, Cabinet maker, 27 Crown St.
OCT86 Samuel Atlee
James Atlee
OCT86-JAN87 Richard Evans
APR87-OCT87 John Warner
APR87 John Jackson, Grocer, 78 Water St.
MAY87 Robert J. Livingston, Attorney
SEP87-NOV87 Hercules Mulligan, Tailor, Chapel St.
NOV87-DEC87 John B. Dash Sr., Tinman, 67 Broadway
John B. Dash Jr., Hardware merchant, 147 Broadway
FEB88 Elizabeth Smith
JUN88-MAR90 Absalom Blackly, Attorney, 74 Water St.
Ebenezer Blackly
JUL88 Michael Nestell
JUL88-OCT89 Isaac Van Gieson
AUG88-DEC88 Absalom Blackly, Attorney, 74 Water St.
AUG88-SEP88 Nicholas DePeyster
AUG89 Isaac Richards

**William Alexander
Samuel Atlee**

MAY84-MAR85 John Morgan, Tavern keeper, Gold St. & Maiden Ln.
MAR85 Richard Morgan, Porter House keeper, 16 Front St.

**John Grier
David Brooks
James Grier**

JUN84-OCT84 Joseph Brown Sr.
OCT85 Joshua Isaacs, Merchant, 8 Water St.
DEC85-MAY86 George Leaycraft
Alexander Graham
JUN86 Peter Nestle
FEB88-MAY88 John Parsell
JUN88-JUL88 Nathaniel Bowman
Richard Smith
JUN88 Mordeiai Heale
AUG88-SEP88 Henry Bicker Jr.

---(continued next page)

JAN89-FEB89 Simon Nathan
Aaron Pimentel
Isaac DeCosta
JUL89-SEP89 Solomon Myers Cohen
SEP89-OCT89 Andrew Bostwick
FEB90-MAR90 Simon Nathan
Solomon Myers Cohen

Thomas Goadsby
Thomas Holmes
Joseph Holmes
Samuel Kirkman
Marla Kirkman

SEP84-AUG85 James Brebner, Store owner, 8 William St.
Andrew Brown, Store owner, 8 William St.
JUL85 Francis Groome, 2 Burling Slip
AUG90 Frederick Jay, Auctioneer, 11 Queen St.

Thomas Machin

APR85-OCT88 Ebenezer Mather
APR87 Isaac Clason, Merchant, 47 Smith St.
NOV87 William Buckle, Merchant, 9 Water St.

John Bailey

JUN85-JUL85 Moses Rogers, Merchant, 26 Queen St.
John Murray Jr., Merchant, 38 Queen St.
AUG85 James Fraim, Cabinet Maker, 11 Bowery
NOV85-MAR86 Sarah Van Solinger
JUN86 James W. Combs
JUL90 John Stotesborough
Benjamin Thompson
AUG90 Samuel Gautier
NOV90 John J. Remsen, Merchant, Great Dock St.
Samuel Gautier

Daniel Van Voorhis
Simeon Alexander Bayley
William Coley

AUG85 John Loudon, Printer, 6 Water St.

George Olive (Assignee)
Samuel Atlee
William Alexander
John Perkin
James Atlee
William Thompson
Alexander Reed

AUG85-DEC85 Edward McGinn
JAN86-FEB86 James Reid

Samuel Atlee
William Alexander
John Perkin
James F. Atlee

NOV85-FEB86 John Conway, Tavern keeper, 39 King St.

Alblon Cox
George Olive
John Jarvis

DEC85 Simeon Bayley, Jeweler & Goldsmith, 24 Old Slip

Samuel Atlee

DEC85-JAN86 Abraham Brevoort, Ironmonger, 26 Queen St.
JUN86-SEP86 John B. Dash Sr., Tinman, 67 Broadway
John B. Dash Jr., Hardware merchant, 147 Broadway
AUG86 William Gilliland, Store owner, Broad St.
JAN87 John Lamb, Collector of the port, 44 Water St.
MAY87 George Stanton, Carpenter, 31 Golden Hill
JUL87 Zacharias Sickles, Cooper, 115 Water St.
JUL87-AUG87 Daniel Dunscomb, Attorney, 82 Fair St.
AUG87 Henry Beekman
SEP87-NOV87 Thomas Thomas, Brass founder, 206 Queen St.
NOV87-DEC87 Christopher Duyckinck, Sailmaker, 27 Front St.
JUN88 William Alexander, Great George St.

Alblon Cox

DEC85 Simeon Bayley, Jeweler & Goldsmith, 24 Old Slip
APR86-JUN86 Francis Raynes
William Olive
APR86-JUN86 Francis Raynes
William Olive
John Jackson, Grocer, 78 Water St.
JUN86-OCT87 Thomas Thomas, Brass founder, 206 Queen St.
MAR87-MAR88 Bob Birch, Limner, engraver, 178 Queen St.

Walter Mould

FEB86 Andrew Lott, 15 Beekman St.

George Olive
Alblon Cox

JUN86-AUG87 Thomas Thomas, Brass founder, 206 Queen St.

Samuel Atlee
James F. Atlee

AUG86-OCT91 William Gilliland, Store owner, Broad St.

Samuel Atlee
James F. Atlee
Alblon Cox

OCT86-DEC86 Christopher Duyckinck, Sailmaker, 27 Front St.
SEP87-NOV87 John Murray Jr., Merchant, 38 Queen St.

Ephraim Brasher

MAR87 John Stiles
 Morris Earle

James Gilles
Garret Roorback

MAY87 Medcef Eden, Brewer, Golden Hill

David Brooks
Samuel Hay

JUN87-AUG87 Joseph Winter, Attorney, 64 Nassau St.

Thomas Goadsby

JUL87 John Teaylem
JUL87-FEB88 Richard Perkins
DEC87 James Tinker, Captain, 15 Little George St.
JUN88 Jacob Sharp
AUG88 Luther Baldwin

David Brooks
Samuel Atlee
James Atlee
James Gilles
James Grier

DEC87 George Cliland, Blacksmith, 15 Maiden Lane

James F. Atlee

JUN88 William Alexander, Great George St.

James Gilles
James Grier
James Atlee
Samuel Atlee
David Brooks
Thomas Machin

NOV88-FEB89 Albert Rickman, Glass & China store, 178 Queen St
JAN89 Robert Rickman

Appendix B

Sample page transcribed from
New York Mayor's Court Minutes

August 1, 1786

Samuel Atlee	Discontinued
Vs	Attorney: Giles
William Gilliland	

August 29, 1786

Albion Cox	On Motion of Mr. Wm Livingston for the
Adsm	defendant Ordered that the plaintiff
Thomas Thomas	file his declaration by the next court
	or be nonprossed

Samuel Atlee and	The sheriff returns the defendant in
James F. Atlee	custody On like motion ordered that the
Vs	defendant plead in 7 days after the
William Gilliland	service of a copy of the declaration
	and this rule on the sheriff his deputy
	or the defendant in Custody or
	Judgement
	Attorney: Giles for the plaintiffs.

September 26, 1786

Samuel Atlee	Mr. Giles Attorney for the defendant
Adsm	produces the peoples writ of habias
John B Dash Sr. &	corpus cum cuasa which was read and
John B Dash Jr.	filed on his motion Ordered that the
	return thereof be made accordingly

October 24, 1786

James Giles Esquire	The sheriff returns the defendant
Vs	Samuel Atlee taken the other defendant
Samuel Atlee and	not found On motion of Mr. B.
James F. Atlee	Livingston for the plaintiff Ordered
	that the sheriff bring in the body of
the defendant sitting	the Court or be amerced 40 shillings
and that he plead in 7 days after the declaration is filed or	
Judgement	
